

LANGAN IS AMERICA'S BEST POLICEMAN.

That Is What Inspector Brooks Says of New Chief of Manhattan, Who Takes Byrnes for His Model and Means to Equal His Work.

He is a silent man, in appearance not unlike a Broadway merchant, who now sits in the heart of the Central Office in Mulberry street. With little of the typical policeman or of the Sherlock Holmes showing outwardly, Capt. James Langan brings to the command of what has been the most effective detective organization in the world the experience of one, some of the talents of the other and a forceful character.

He brings, too, a model after whom he would pattern, and that model is the Inspector Byrnes of the old days in Mulberry street, the man who made the Detective Bureau great.

This man on whom has been placed the responsibility for the greater police work of the department in Manhattan brings to his task a determination that the bureau shall regain its old excellence; that the men shall work, and that every one of them shall "make good."

He does not hesitate about announcing his intent, and men who have known him well in his twenty-four years of work on the force say there will be no half measures about the execution of that policy.

Inspector Brooks has called his new Lieutenant "the best policeman in the United States." It records counts for anything that of Capt. Langan's twenty-four years of service is sufficient ground for the Inspector's opinion. But one petty charge was ever placed against him, and it is said that he has no energy among the thousands of men on the force.

A person rushing into Headquarters seeking aid in catching a thief would probably pick out any one of the 143 sleuths there as the chief before he would turn to "Jim" Langan.

When the doorkeeper lets one in and says, "Here is the chief," he is apt to look about for a Sherlock Holmes, only to shake hands with a man who looks much more like a well-to-do broker or Broadway merchant.

A SILENT MAN.

And the visitor will do all the talking. "Jim" Langan would pass his own brother in silence unless the other spoke first," says John Farrington, of the Criminal Courts police, and John has known Langan since the latter was a schoolboy in the old Sixth Ward.

So the first impression one has of New York's detective chief is the same one would get of a sphinx. It may be that he tells his wife—she who was Mary Sullivan, of Grammar School No. 24, in City Hall Place—some of his professional secrets, but not likely. "No one ever heard 'Jim' gossip," says Farrington. "That's the reason the little he does say goes so far."

There was a new air at Headquarters to-day. It was as though teacher had suddenly returned and caught the scholars at horse play. One look, and they are all bending over desks, buried in their lessons.

"Just like it used to be in Byrnes' time," said a gray-haired sleuth. "You've got to deliver the goods now or go back to poundin' bricks."

"That's pretty good," observed Langan when an Evening World reporter repeated to him the old sleuth's commentary. Then he leaped into silence.

"You don't look like a detective," observed the reporter, taking mental note of the other's slightly rotund figure, his grayish hair, his white mustache, his persistent chin and his steady, bluish eyes.

"Well, maybe I'm not," replied the Chief, taking out a light Havana cigar and methodically lighting it. "It's seventeen years since I was in 'his building. I was a youngster then, working under Byrnes. George McKusky was my side partner. Good man, George. I wish he was here now." The Chief blew a cloud of smoke. He seemed bored.

"What is your opinion of Byrnes as a detective?"

BELIEVES IN BYRNES.

Langan's face fairly glowed. "Byrnes?" he repeated. "Why, he was the best ever. If I do as well as Byrnes I'll be satisfied."

The Detective Chief seemed to be living up to, and the reporter noted that he had been told to look out for—Langan's eyes.

He has a sort of slate-colored optic that gives one the impression that it looks through things, is observing and retentive, yet not piercing. It does not worry one. Just such an eye had Cecil Rhodes.

If any one thinks that is a bachelor's reverie all he has to do is to look at Langan's record and hear what others say about the man.

In the first place, "Jim" Langan was credited by Byrnes as having "the set memory for faces" he ever knew. Langan's distinction for that is undisputed to-day in the department. He rarely, if ever, forgets a face.

"How do you do it?" asked the reporter; "have you any method? How, for instance, would you remember me if you saw me again?"

The detective chief puffed once and then replied briskly: "Why, if I saw you again I'd say to myself, 'That's a newspaper man. He acts like one, dresses like one'—well, I won't say exactly that, but you have the general idea of a type. You can't conceal it."

"Now, if I wanted to talk with you I should simply go on that presumption and put it up to you. I don't say I'd remember your name or your face. Same as I might not remember whether you were a yegg or a second-story man—nasty that—but I'd remember your face as associated with a certain line. I should watch you mightily close, whether you denied or affirmed it. In my fourteen years at Toub's and Criminal Court I rarely failed to recall a face after once seeing it. Merely habit of noting closely, that's all."

For developing this instinct Langan had the best opportunities in the world. When he joined the Police Department in 1878, shortly after graduating from Grammar School No. 24, he was assigned to the Mulberry street precinct, then the resort of a vicious set of crooks. He made so many arrests that when a detective force was organized under Byrnes the young policeman was picked out first as one of the forty detective-sergeants.

To illustrate his method of thief-catching it is told of Langan that an arm came in one day of a murder. A little boy had been killed at One hundred and Tenth street and Fifth avenue under circumstances somewhat similar to the recent murder of a boy at West Eighty-sixth street and the ark.

ALWAYS IN SIGHT.

A dog-catcher by the name of Terry McQuade was suspected and Langan shadowed him. He never allowed McQuade to get out of his sight, watched every movement and so worried the murderer that he finally gave up. "You're sure to get me some time," he told Langan; "take me now."

"It's surprising," the Chief said to The Evening World reporter, "how the criminals, especially murderers, will break down with persistent bounding. For that reason I am a believer in the third degree."

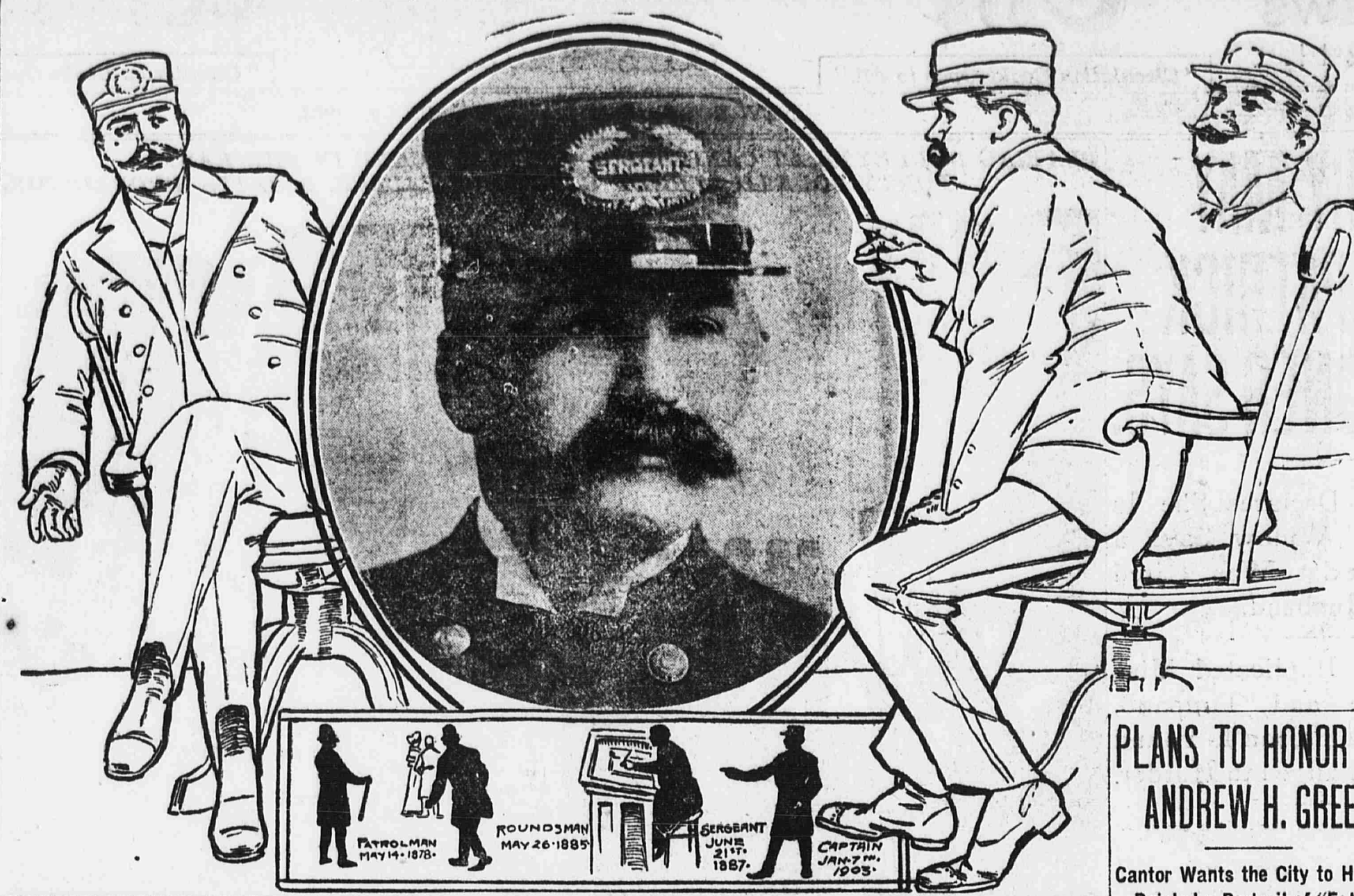
"I have seen dozens of murderers when confronted with a bloody pistol, life or garment go all to pieces. And when they do that you can count on times out of ten on their guilt."

Nearly every veteran in the police force can cite instances where "Jim" Langan's eye pointed out an old offender when every other failed. "Remember our morning we were standing on the steps there," said John Farrington, sitting in the Criminal Courts Prison, "when they brought a man in with highway robbery."

"That's a word for me," he asked Langan. "Thinking first offense?"

"That's all," said Jim. "Why, have you forgotten August, twelve years ago, when you cracked that safe on Canal street. Rogers was your name, wasn't it? You remember him, John? Well, after he recalled the thing I said, 'You're a word for me'—a memory don't you think much?"

CAPT. LANGAN, "THE BEST POLICEMAN IN AMERICA," SKETCHED AT HIS DESK IN THE DETECTIVE BUREAU.



leading up to the Police Court, and day by day noted every face. He has also attended most trials in General and Special Sessions, so that every offender that was tried in New York City for felony had to pass his scrutiny. If a training of this sort avails anywhere it should avail in his present position.

POSSESSED OF PERSISTENCY.

After the careful, steady eye, one next observes Langan's chin, not a protruding, bulldog, snow-plough affair, but a well formed, decisive chin that shows persistency. Reflect on Langan's career and you will be convinced he has persistency.

The discouragements he has met have been enough to dishearten any one but a persistent Irishman. It has been the wonder of the Police Department that "Jim" Langan had not received the gold shield long before Commissioner Greene presented it. "Better man never wore uniform," has been the word for two score years.

Yet, while dozens of others less deserving were made captains "Jim" Langan plodded along as roundsman and sergeant. Twice he was telephoned to appear at Headquarters and get the much coveted promotion. The last time, in 1897, Inspector Thompson had already handed him the shield and Commissioner Parker had grasped his hand in congratulation when orders suddenly came to promote Sergeant Haslocher, now retired, and Langan went back to the Criminal Courts, still a sergeant. But he was not discouraged.

In talking with dozens of policemen about the new Chief an Evening World reporter heard naught but praise for him. Most of the officers, sergeants and captains, remarked with especial emphasis that Langan could not be "reached."

Probably the most notorious "grafter" that ever thrived in New York was a "steerer" at the Criminal Courts. This man had such remarkable influence that he could even toy with Supreme Court Justices.

TITUS TALKS OF HIS NEW PLANS

Commander of the Oak Street Precinct Incidentally Takes a Jaunt Through the Former Home of the Tough Gangs.

THAT DE LACEY TROUBLE.

Muffled to the ears in a great overcoat, Capt. George F. Titus, whom official police decree relegated from the head of the Central Office Detective Bureau to command at the Oak street station, made an active tour of his bailiwick this morning. He was overhauled on lower Catherine street by an Evening World reporter.

"Just looking over the situation and getting a few points," said the Captain, "renewing old acquaintances, as it were. It's no new story to me. I've done police work in this very precinct years ago and have seen some exciting times in this very neighborhood." And the Captain waved a gloved hand in the direction of Cherry and Water streets.

Tells of the Old Gangs.

"Yes," he added reluctantly, "along Water street in those days there were tough gangs of young men who rendezvoused in the various resorts which characterized the neighborhood. They found hiding-places, day and night as well, in the numerous alleys which jut off the street and lead to rear courts which are fringed by the tenements now. There was old Bottle alley, the scene of many an encounter between the police and the toughs, and where many a good policeman was laid out by a treacherous blow in the dark. In those days we usually had two men to patrol the beat in company. The river front along South street was a scene of nightly carousals, and fights and brawls were of nightly occurrence. In those days the 'half-door' drive, frequented by painted women, were a feature of the lower section of the precinct, but these places have long since been driven out of business by the police."

"Before Capt. O'Reilly took command," added the reporter.

About De Lacey's Pool-Room.

"Have you sized up the precinct as it was left by Capt. O'Reilly?" the reporter asked.

"No," am not going into that matter at all," said the Captain emphatically. "I have neither the time nor the inclination to do so," added the Captain, diplomatically.

"You are reported as having stated that De Lacey's pool-room was in operation when you came into the precinct, and had been running for a considerable time before Capt. O'Reilly left," said the reporter.

"What I stated on that score was that from absolutely reliable information I had learned that De Lacey was doing business and had been doing business long before I was transferred to this command. The information came to me as a result of an investigation which I made concerning precinct affairs."

Hand Books and Excise Law.

"Naturally I wanted to know all about De Lacey and other places in the precinct. These places are situated along Park Row, a populous thoroughfare at all hours, and near the big bridge. The ordinary saloons must close at the usual hour and keep closed on Sundays," was all the Captain would say on that score.

How Game Is Worked.

It is known to Capt. Titus that not only has De Lacey been doing business in the precinct, but that he has been doing business in the precinct for some time. The old gambling place at No. 11 Ann street has been raided recently, and the last five months, and "Bill" Hayes, the fat fero dealer connected with the establishment, is a daily figure at the corner of Ann and Broadway.

"When it is decided by the management to operate on a pay basis, the word and passes it along to the frequenters known to him personally. Among the rank and file this fact has been well known for months, but the Ann street place has never been raided since it was refurbished nearly a year ago. Its reversion came when Capt. Vredenburg was in command of the precinct."

"Wasn't that what you say to be an advantage?" asked the reporter.

He stationed himself on the main floor and there held a sort of court of his own. One day he got in trouble and was arrested.

COULDN'T INFLUENCE HIM.

"I saw with my own eyes," said John Farrington, "a United States Senator, a Congressman, an Alderman, an Assemblyman and finally the politician who made 'Jim' Langan all come in one after another and try to persuade Langan to let this man off. He threw them all out, and the steerer had to take his medicine."

Langan was born at No. 31 Park street and lived most of his life in the Sixth Ward. He believes in a policeman or detective being retained in one locality so that he can lay his hand any moment upon a "wanted" man. "I used to know every person in my ward," he said, "and it is acquaintance of that sort that tells."

A man who has lived his life in the lower part of New York City cannot be expected to have much social polish. "Jim" Langan is more or less a rough diamond. He is like the captain of a sailing ship who has worked his way up through the hawse pipe and forecabin. He does not have any finicky sympathy for the men under him, and in telling what he proposed to do Langan spoke roughly, almost brutally. It sounded strange, coming from the quiet, sedate person he had appeared to be at first glance.

After saying that the detective force should be increased and a night force assigned to prevent burglaries and holdups he concluded:

"Now say I'm a fair man and I'll see fair play. I've been right through the game, and I know what's what."

"What I'm going to do is to cruise around night times by myself. I'll go into every hole and corner of this city, and I'll see that every man under me does his duty. He's got to show me, and don't you forget that."

"There'll be no more detectives standin' round showing their shapes in front of hotels. They've all got to get busy. And these gangs hang out and tear 'em up. I purpose to make every man toe the mark and earn his salary. You can print that, for it's straight. Have a cigar?"

GREENE TO RAISE POLICE SALARIES

Commissioner Will Ask the Legislature to Add \$1,500 a Year to Pay Now Drawn by Inspectors.

CORTRIGHT MAY GET \$7,500.

In giving a brief outline of what he would ask the Legislature to do for the New York Police Department, Commissioner Greene said to-day that besides asking for the third Deputy Commissioner he would ask that the salary of the new Chief Inspector, who is Cortright, be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year and that the salaries of the Borough Inspectors be increased by \$1,500.

The same increase in pay would apply to Inspector McLaughlin, but Commissioner Greene intimated strongly that McLaughlin would ask to be retired on a pension before long and that Brooks would be raised to his place. As the raise of \$1,500 now gives Brooks \$5,000 the Legislature will be asked to further enhance his salary \$1,000 as Chief of the Detective Bureau.

Gen. Greene will ask the Legislature to take the House of Detention out of the jurisdiction of the police and give it to the District Attorney. Most of the persons detained there are the District Attorney's witnesses.

He said that heretofore no applications for retirement would be acted upon, except after they had gone through the stipulated channels. The cause for this was that a roundsman out in Westchester a few days ago sent to Commissioner Greene his application for retirement on a pension, and that an hour after he was retired and put on the pension list, was found that the captain of the precinct had made charges against him, charging him with taking a bribe of \$100 in the station and treating the village toughs at the desk.

NEW YORK'S DEATH AVENUE.

Man Instantly Killed by Central Train at Forty-fourth street. Because no flagman is stationed at the New York Central crossing in Eleventh avenue, at Forty-fourth street, where early morning trains whiz by at great speed, Michael Bevilacqua, sixty years old, laborer, was hurled to death by a train to-day.

President Cantor has suggested that, in the interests of art and education, the city provide for mural paintings, representing important historical events, either national or municipal, as part of the interior decorations of the new Hall of Records.

He also suggests that the city engage an eminent artist to paint the portrait of Andrew H. Green, "The Father of Greater New York," to hang in the Governor's room. In a communication to the Mayor President Cantor writes:

"It seems to me it would be eminently fit and proper for us to recognize in a substantial way, so that the citizens of this great municipality shall have it brought to their attention for all time, the services rendered to the city by 'The Father of Greater New York,' Hon. Andrew H. Green. "It is not necessary that I should do more than make the suggestion, in view of the future of this great municipality, which will doubtless outstrip even the expectations of its founders, and continue to grow in power and influence."

ARAPAHOE INDIANS STARVE.

Raise No Crops and Get No Government Supplies.

LANDER, Wyo., Jan. 8.—The Arapahoe Indians are in a starving condition. Not a day passes but a band is in town begging. The Indians raised no crops this season and they have no rations issued to them by the Government, as their treaty expired last year.

G. H. MUMM & Co.'s

Extra Dry, Being more than ONE-THIRD of all the Champagne imported.

THE FAMOUS 1898 VINTAGE OF MUMM'S EXTRA DRY, NOW ARRIVING, IS DESTINED TO MAKE A STILL MORE EMPHATIC INCREASE.

125,719 CASES were

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B.R.T. ROBSPETER TO WARM PAUL.

Brooklyn Road Uses "L" Current to Keep Street Trolleys Comfortable and Freezes and Delays Passengers Overhead.

NEW SCHEDULE OUT TO-DAY.

Fifth Car to Be Added to Brighton Beach Trains, Incidentally, so You Can Enjoy a Day by the Sad Sea Waves.

It was so cold to-day that the officials of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit actually took pity on the poor passengers who have to come to Manhattan from Brooklyn in the rush hours. They turned on the heat in the surface cars.

To do this they had to rob Peter to pay Paul, for they took the current which had been used to heat the "L" cars, and part of that which had been used to run them, in order to put it to use in the surface car heaters. A lot of the wheezy old steam engines, which had been displaced by the third rail, were brought out to run the "L" trains. There was not time, it was said, to make the steam pipe connections all through the trains, so that they might be heated by steam. Passengers on the "L" therefore shivered, but as they are, as a rule, on the trains a less time than those which creep through the streets in the surface cars, it was probably better so.

The B. R. T. people say that if they have to use the steam engines again they will be able to make the steam connections and heat the trains in the old way.

The B. R. T. also issued a new schedule on some of their lines to-day. They announced that after Jan. 12 there would be a thorough service on the surface and "L" via the Culver route and the Fifth avenue "L" road to Coney Island. Cars from Coney Island will take the "L" at Thirty-ninth street. The height of the Fulton street "L" at Eleventh avenue has been raised eighteen inches to permit the larger cars to be used on the Fifth Avenue "L" road.

In consequence of this change the Vanderbilt avenue surface cars will not be operated beyond Ninth avenue and Twentieth street, in order, it is said, to keep the line clear for the through service. The surface service from Thirty-ninth street will also be discontinued for the same reason.

From Kensington cars will be run after Jan. 12 by way of the Culver route, Fifteenth street and Court street to Manhattan. Still another improvement will be the addition of a fifth car to the Brighton Beach trains and an extra conductor. This latter addition will obviate the need for a car to be discontinued for the same reason.

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